

L. T. P. & G. THURSDAY, AUGUST 25, 1949  
(Given by Fulton Oursler)

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The big headline tonight tells of complete exoneration for Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson and the high command of the Air Force as well. The Congressional Investigating Committee finds them entirely innocent of any wrong-doing in the famous affair of the B-36.

This verdict was voted today, after the Navy Department official -- chief source of the charges of political corruption, broke down and took it all back, repudiating the accusations he had made. Yesterday the news told how Cedric Worth, special assistant to Under-Secretary of the Navy Dan Kimball, admitted that he was the author of the anonymous document that started the whole investigation.

Today, Cedric Worth testified before the Investigating Committee again, and declared that, in preparing the accusations, he had been helped by Commander Thomas Davies, the Navy pilot who set the distance record in Nineteen Forty-Six, flying the Truculent Turtle.

Commander Davies has recently been assisting Vice-Admiral Radford, Commander of the Pacific Fleet - helping him in preparing testimony, which the Admiral is scheduled to give in the investigation.

Other testimony was given today by Under-Secretary of the Navy Dan Kimball - he being the boss of Cedric Worth. Kimball declared that he hadn't the slightest idea that his own special assistant had written the attack on the B-36. He said that last April the office of Naval Intelligence had investigated, trying to find out the source of the document - but had been unable to find out. That evoked a roar from Committee Chairman, Congressman Vinson of Georgia. "And somebody fell down on the job," he shouted, and then added significantly, "When we get through, you'll see that plenty of people had something to do with it in the Navy Department."

The climax came when the investigators cross-questioned Cedric Worth, former newspaperman and Hollywood script writer, who was a naval officer in the Second World

War, and who then became a Navy Department official. He broke down, and recanted. He said he had made - "a great error." One by one, he repudiated the charged he had made in the anonymous document, and said that he had done this country, what he called - "a great disservice."

Thereupon, the Committee acted swiftly, and voted a full exoneration of Secretary of Defense Johnson and the Air Force command, the Committee stating that they were without - "the slightest blemish."

## FIVE PERCENTER

In the investigation of the Five Percenters - new charges against General Vaughn, the President's military aide, and his friend, John Maragon.

The Senate investigators presented evidence today, to show that Vaughn used his White House influence to get space in military planes for Maragon and a Chicago business man in the perfume business.

The story, as presented by the investigators, goes back to Nineteen Forty-Five, when American military planes were jammed with a rush of travel, as the Second World War was ending - millions of Americans being sent home from all parts of the world. At that time, Maragon was connected with David A. Bennett, President of the Albert Verley Company of Chicago, manufacturers of perfume. It was the Verley firm, interestingly enough, which paid for the deep freezers that have been in the headlines - deep freeze units sent as gifts to General Vaughn, Mrs. Truman, Chief Justice Vinson, and Secretary of the Treasury John Snyder.

According to the story, General Vaughn told the State Department that President Truman was interested personally in seeing that the mysterious little Greek-American had place on a plane to Europe. These trips were made both before and after the gifts of the deep freezers.

Rare perfume oils were brought in, and today Senator McCarthy of Wisconsin demanded an explanation from the Department of Justice - an explanation of why Maragon was not prosecuted for trying to smuggle in essences for perfume, in the guise of champagne for the White House. He was detected in the attempt, and paid a fifteen hundred dollar penalty - but no further action seems to have been taken in the matter of the White House champagne, which turned out to be material for making perfume.

In all this, General Vaughn is to testify next Tuesday, while Maragon will give his explanation tomorrow.



## STRIKE

In all these charges and counter-charges of skullduggery, one wonders ~~which~~ what is happening to morality in our land. But there is a refreshing note being heard ~~xxx~~ once more that prayer <sup>may be</sup> is the answer. <sup>One</sup> I <sup>a</sup> learned today that Walter Hoving, department store tycoon, prays for fifteen minutes every morning before business. Norman Vincent Peale, famous clergyman, that and also another, tells of an incident in the great sit-down strikes back in Nineteen Thirty-Seven. In the current issue of Readers' Digest, he relates how on a Palm Sunday morning several clergymen were asked to come to the Y.M.C.A. for a conference about the Chrysler sit-down strike. The Acting Mayor was there, and the representatives of the Union - and affairs looked bad indeed.

The Ministers were informed that the Union was organizing a mass meeting for four o'clock, Tuesday afternoon, on Cadillac Square - which was jammed with traffic. The Chief of Police had refused a permit for the meeting, and

a violent riot seemed likely.

The Ministers now sat in on the discussion. The Police Chief was willing to permit a meeting in some other area but not downtown. The Union was determined on Cadillac Square. The talk went on for an hour, getting nowhere - a stubborn deadlock.

Then one preacher suggested - that they all kneel down and pray. To his astonishment, no one objected among the city officials and union leaders. Some prayed out loud, others in silence.

Fifteen minutes later, they sat again at the conference table. The Acting Mayor said: "How will it do if the meeting is held in Cadillac Square at six o'clock instead of four?"

A Union leader added a suggestion of his own. "Suppose we hold our meeting only on one end of the square, so as not to tie up traffic?"

Fifteen minutes of prayer did the job. On Tuesday afternoon the huge mass meeting of strikers was completely peaceful.

TRUMAN

Well, the President says he feels free to enter the congressional elections next year. He told a news conference today that, once the primaries have been held, he may do some national campaigning in behalf of Democratic candidates to Congress in Nineteen Fifty.

But what about Nineteen Fifty-Two, the newsmen asked. On that point, the President refused to commit himself - no comment on the question of whether or not he will run for reelection, when the next presidential year come around.



## SOUTH

More action tonight, in the Dixiecrat rumpus -- the new Democratic National Chairman, William Boyle recognizing a delegation from Mississippi. This follows the expulsion of southern rebels from the Committee, members who bolted the Truman ticket last autumn. Among those tossed out were delegates from Mississippi-- followed now by the seating of a <sup>new</sup> pro-Truman group.

This was announced tonight by Boyle, who went on to intimate that the same thing is likely to happen in the case of the other Dixiecrat states. "The recognition of loyal Democrats to fill the vacancies in South Carolina, Alabama and Louisiana is now under study," said he. The Chairman has no right to name the Committee members from those states, but he can recognize pro-Truman advocates who may be selected, one way or other, down there in the land of cotton.

All this draws an immediate roar of protests, with Dixiecrat Senator Dennis of Mississippi leading off. He calls it a brazen usurpation of power.

## ATOMIC

One of the big sensations of recent months dwindled away into oblivion tonight. Remember the atomic energy investigation, which made such noisy headlines, Chairman Lilienthal charged with "incredible mismanagement?" Well, the investigation committee passed out tonight, the big noise dying away in a whisper. The Chairman, Senator Brian MacMahon of Connecticut, had to do it all by himself, declaring the investigation at an end. He made four unsuccessful attempts to get other committee members to attend the final session, but they could not be bothered. He could not get a quorum, <sup>and</sup> had to do it solo, dissolving the committee.

## STORY

Every editor likes to talk about his or her authors, so here's another example - most appropriate for this radio program. Some years ago, I published a series of stories by Lowell Thomas. The subject was his first exploit-when, as a young newsman beginning a career of travel adventure, he covered the British campaign of Allenby in Palestine, and discovered the fabulous Lawrence of Arabia. So tonight I'm an editor substituting on the radio for one of his star authors.

I know how much Lowell always wanted to go to far places, adventure in remote lands -- and now he's on an expedition in Tibet, a trip to the Forbidden City of Lhasa. Which represents a top ranking stunt of radio. Few outsiders of the West have ever been to Lhasa, and to do a radio broadcast there is a spectacular performance. Lowell is making recorded broadcasts from various points along the caravan trail, giving us a radio account of adventure, on a road over the high passes of the Himalayas to the City of the Dalai Lama, in that realm of the lamas and the monasteries of Tibet - land of mystery. We'll hear from him again tomorrow, another broadcast from the expedition to Tibet.

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## NOISE

A new campaign is being launched - and I suppose I should say it in a whisper. A campaign against noise - a drive to make things quieter in this uproarious land of ours. The announcement comes from the National Noise Abatement Council in New York - which is making a quiet search for a honkless automobile horn, an alarmless alarm clock, a non-barking dog, and a silent singer.

Today, Paul Washburn, a member of the Board of Directors of the Society, stated that the new campaign has been incited by a deluge of complaints - a pandemonium of protests ~~complaints~~ against noise. He told of people shrieking in anguish over the bouncing of garbage cans, the crowing of roosters, and even the popping of champagne corks. ~~Some~~ One woman says she can't sleep because the sea lions in the Central Park Zoo keep her awake, barking and booming. Another sufferer from insomnia has a neighbor upstairs who, every midnight, splashes noisily in the bathtub.

In the Bronx, a whole neighborhood has insomnia,



because of a woman who, at a late hour every night for a whole year, played the same piece on a piano badly out of tune.

So no wonder the National Noise Abatement Council is launching a drive for more silence in America, and is praying for noiseless miracles. Well, I can refer them to a miracle indeed -- wordless preaching, or almost that. During a recent heat wave, church services were about to begin on a broiling Sunday in Somerset Massachusetts. The pastor, the Reverend Stephen Downey, was ready to start, when several parishioners went to him and asked - would he please make the sermon short, the weather being what it was. The pastor thought it over, and then, when the time came, he preached what must have been the shortest sermon ever: "I've been asked," said he, "to make it short. And I will. I'll merely say - there's one place hotter than this."

Nelson, I think we'd both better keep that in mind.